GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1683
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
HOUSING SCHEME FOR BEEDI WORKERS
Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented any housing scheme through EPF for beedi workers;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions alongwith other provisions of the scheme; and

(c) the number of beedi workers benefited from this scheme as on date, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) & (b): There is no separate Housing Scheme implemented through Employees` Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for beedi workers. However, in terms of para 68B of Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, members of the Fund, including beedi workers, with 5 years of membership are allowed withdrawal from the fund for the purchase of a dwelling house/flat or for the construction of a dwelling house including the acquisition of suitable site for the purpose.

In line with the above legal provision, Employees` Provident Fund Organisation has taken the initiative of a `facilitator` to bring under one umbrella, HUDCO as a Housing Finance Agency and various State Housing Boards/Development Authorities to facilitate housing to Employees` Provident Fund (EPF) subscriber. A new para 68 BC has also been incorporated into the Scheme for this purpose.

(c): Separate data on the number of beedi workers benefited from this scheme is not maintained.